



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Veterinary Services

Center for Veterinary  
Biologics

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April 11, 2005

**CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS NOTICE NO. 05-08**

**Subject:** GB Texas Newcastle Disease Challenge Virus; Change in  
Select Agent Status

**To:** Biologics Licensees, Permittees, and Applicants  
Veterinary Services Management Team  
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics

The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties that the GB Texas Newcastle disease challenge virus is considered a select agent and, as such, is subject to the requirements of 9 CFR Part 121, "Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act (ABPA) of 2002; Possession, Use, and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins; Final Rule." The final rule clarified that possession and use of velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus should be regulated. Accordingly, in the Final Rule published March 18, 2005, "Newcastle disease virus (VVND)" was removed from the list of Veterinary Services (VS) select agents and replaced with "Newcastle disease virus (velogenic)" to make it clear that VS was now regulating all of the velogenic strains. The effective date of the Final Rule is April 18, 2005.

Veterinary biologics licensees who maintain, use, or transfer the GB Texas Newcastle disease virus challenge strain (or other velogenic Newcastle disease virus strains) and their facilities must register with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and meet the requirements set forth in 9 CFR Part 121.

For information concerning the APHIS select agent registration process or the regulations in 9 CFR Part 121, contact the Agricultural Select Agent Program at (301) 734-5960 or visit the web site at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/programs/ag\\_selectagent/index.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/programs/ag_selectagent/index.html).

This information supersedes Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 800.95 dated November 4, 1999. That document is currently being revised to reflect the requirements of the Final Rule, and will be republished in the near future.

/s/ Richard E. Hill, Jr.

Richard E. Hill, Jr.  
Director  
Center for Veterinary Biologics



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